

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1135

UNCLAS MOSCOW 8141

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

FOR A/OS MCGUGAN FROM WILKINSON

REF: A. STATE 125483

B. MOSCOW 7497

C. MCGUGAN LETTER 5/29

1. AT MEETING JUNE 11 SCHOOL BOARD DECIDED MALONEY SUITABLE FOR PRINCIPAL POSITION AND OFFER WOULD BE MADE TO HIM UNLESS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STRENGTHENED CASE OF GIBBS OR OTHER CANDIDATE. WHILE MALONEY HAS SOME WEAK POINTS IN BOARD'S EYES, WE HAVE SOLID RECOMMENDATIONS ON BASIS LENGTHY PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, ONE BY PRESENT BOARD MEMBER AND ONE BY FORMER MEMBER NOW IN LONDON. WE HESITATE TO RULE OUT GIBBS, BUT COULD NOT PICK HIM OVER MALONEY WITHOUT MORE COMPLETE PICTURE HIS ADAPTABILITY, DRIVE AND PROBABLE APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS SMALL SCHOOL WITH LIMITED RESOURCES IN FRUSTRATINGLY DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT.

2. IT HAS OCCURRED TO US THAT FSO RALPH (ROBIN) PORTER, FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN NOW IN DEPARTMENT, MIGHT BE AGREEABLE TO UNDERTAKING ROLE OF PROXY INTERVIEWER, IF GIBBS WOULD BE WILLING TO FLY DOWN TO WASHINGTON FOR DAY. WE CAN OF COURSE NOT MAKE ADVANCE COMMITMENT AND GIBBS SHOULD PURSUE MATTER ONLY IF SALARY IN RANGE DOLS 15,000 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. WE ARE STILL HOLDING UP ON HIRING FIFTH OR SIXTH GRADE TEACHER AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF MRS. GIBBS WHO WOULD APPEAR TO QUALIFY

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FOR TOP OF SCHOOL'S FIXED SCALE, NOW AT DOLS 7,800.

RE HIS STIPULATION MULTIPLE YEAR CONTRACT, WE WOULD OFFER
MINIMUM TWO YEAR SPAN WITH CLAUSE ALLOWING TERMINATION BY EITHER
SIDE ON 45 DAYS NOTICE.

3. BOARD HAS SET ITSELF DEADLINE OF JUNE 18 FOR DECISION IF
AT ALL POSSIBLE. ABOVE IS ONLY SCHEME WE COULD DEVISE TO
MEET TIME PRESSURES AND KEEP DOOR OPEN IN VIEW GIBBS RECORD AND
YOUR FAVORABLE COMMENT. WE WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND IF IT
PROVES UNWORKABLE.

4. SCHOOL HAS NOT YET RECEIVED DOSSIERS ON BIRCH, MCELRATH,
MONSON AND OBLANDER, WHICH ISS MAILED LATE MAY. EVEN WITH
DOESSIERS ON HAND BOARD WOULD UNDOUBTDEDLY BE RELUCTANT CHOSE
WITHOUT BENEFIT PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

5. APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP TO DATE.
MATLOCK

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